

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)  
MINUTES

September 4, 2018  
Veterans' Memorial Auditorium  
5825 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:02 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

**Present:** Commissioner Mike Strain, Jeanine Herrington, Richard Muller, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., Ronald Petree, Katie Sistrunk, Calvin Viator, and Wilbert "Bill" Waguespack

**Absent:** Kent Brown

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with eight members present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Commissioner Strain asked the board members to review the minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Petree, and passed unanimously.

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statements to the board and answered the members' questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Waguespack to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mrs. Sistrunk, and passed unanimously.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

- Mr. Simon updated the board on the Lacassine Industrial Park (LIP). Rail Logix is currently building track and is on schedule to have their first customer by the end of September.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program**

Lafa received 1065 applications for the 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program. A total of 957 applicants received the grant.

### **b. Lease of former computer server room at Ldaf headquarters to Louisiana State Police Commission**

The Louisiana State Police Commission moved into their new suite in May.

### **c. Lease of former Ldaf Seedling Nursery (approximately 85 acres) at the Monroe office complex**

Lafa continues to move forward on this project.

### **d. Resolution to allow DOTD to resurface Woodworth airport runway**

Lafa has hired Pan American Engineers LLC. The project will be 100% funded by DOTD and is estimated to cost \$600,000.

### **e. Ldaf/Lafa's Louisiana Certified Programs – Resolution to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an advertising agency**

Lafa has hired Graham Group based out of Lafayette, LA, as the advertising agency for the Louisiana Certified Programs. The Louisiana Certified Programs attended the Louisiana Restaurant Association in August with several members exhibiting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Consideration of the FY 19 Budget**

Mrs. Irvin and Mr. Simon presented the board with the proposed fiscal year 2019 budget for Lafa, and answered any questions the board had.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to accept the budget. It was seconded by Mr. Petree, and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Irvin and Mr. Simon presented the board with the proposed Indian Creek budget, and answered any questions the board had.

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to accept the budget. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

**b. Delinquent accounts for the 2008 Louisiana Farm and Agribusiness Loan and Grant Recovery Program**

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to turn over the past due files to the Office of Community Development. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

**c. Sewerage and campground improvements at Indian Creek**

A motion was made by Mr. Waguespack to proceed with sewerage improvements and hire an engineer. The improvements shall be capped at \$500,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Viator, and passed unanimously.

**d. Purchase ice machine at Indian Creek**

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to loan Indian Creek \$50,000 to purchase an ice machine. The fund are to be repaid over five (5) years. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sistrunk, and passed unanimously.

**e. Marketing and Rural Development**

Mr. Simon asked the board for guidance and input on how LAFA should proceed in future endeavors.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Muller announced his resignation from the board. He thanked Commissioner Strain and fellow members of the board for all of their hard work over the years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mrs. Sistrunk, and passed unanimously at 11:28 AM.